

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 OPR-02 CPR-02 /031 W

----- 043077

R 121109Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0514

STATE FOR CU/IVP; BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR USIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LU

SUBJ: IVP LUXEMBOURG NOMINEE: ROBERT GOEBBELS

REF: 12 FAM 407.2-1 AND 2-2; A-8585, 10/12/73; STATE 147937

ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENTN HAS ALREADY APPRVED ONE IVP GRANT FOR FY 1075, EMBASSY SUBMITS HERewith NOMINATION FOR AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE IN CASE FUNDING SITUATION MAKES SECOND GRANT POSSIBLE LATER THIS FY. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS OF REPAIR.

1. GOEBBELS, ROBERT
2. PRESENT POSITIONS: SECRETARY GENERAL OF LUXEMBOURG SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (POSL); JOURNALIST AND EDITORIAL-IST WITH SOCIALIST DAIY NEWSPAPER "TAGEBLATT"; PRESIDENT OF LUXEMBOURG CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS.
3. BORN IN 1941 IN LUXEMBOURG CITY, GOEBBELS IS A LUXEMBOURG CITIZEN.
4. TRAVELS ABROAD: GOEBBELS SPENT A FEW DAYS IN WASHINGTON IN THE SPRING OF 1973. HE HAS TRAVELED TO SOUTH A ERICA, NORTH AFRICA AND EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE.
5. NO PREVIOUS US GOVERNMENT GRANT.
6. ESCORT IS RECOMMENDED IF GOEBBELS AGREES.
7. ELIGIBLE FOR VISA.

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8. REASON FOR NOMINATION: GOEBBELS IS SECRETARY GENERAL

OF THE LUXEMBOURG POLITICAL PARTY (THE POSL) WHICH RECEIVED THE MOST POPULAR VOTES IN THE MAY 1974 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND NOW PARTICIPATES IN A GOVERNMENTAL COALITION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. DURING THE FORMATION OF THIS COALITION, GOEBBELS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE COMMON GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM WITH THE DEMOCRATS. FURTHER, GOEBBELS OFTEN FUNCTIONS AS OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE POSL AND HIS EDITORIALS IN THE "TAGEBLATT" ARE INFLUENTIAL IN PROGRESSIVE CIRCLES. GOEBBELS, WHO IS A TRAINED ECONOMIST, HAS EMERGED AS A KEY GOVERNMENT ADVISOR AND SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS ACTIVITIES. WHILE OPPOSING CERTAIN USG POLICIES, HE HAS BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICANS AND OFTEN EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE US.

9. POST OBJECTIVES: GOEBBELS' NOMINATION IS PART OF THE EMBASSY'S PROGRAM TO QUICKLY INCREASE INFLUENCE WITH NEW, YOUNG LEADERS OF THE POSL FOLLOWING THE PARTY'S ELECTION SUCCESS EARLIER THIS YEAR. SINCE MOST OF THE PROMINENT POSL LEADERS HAVENOT SERVED IN GOVERNMENT BEFORE. NOW IS THE TIME WHEN EXPOSURE TO THE US COULD HAVE THE MAXIMUM POSITIVE EFFECT. THROUGH HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND PRESS, GOEBBELS IS IN A POSITION TO COMMUNICATE WIDELY THE RESULTS OF AN IVP SPONSORED TRIP TO THE US.

10. AVAILABILITY: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOEBBELS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN A THIRTY-DAY PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH HIS FLEXIBILITY ON DATES WILL DEPEND ON AMOUNT OF LEAD TIME WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE IN PROPOSING GRANT. TARNOFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUXEMB00514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740220-0779
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740855/aaaabvmr.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 12 FAM 407.2-1 AND 2-2; A-8585, 10/1, 2/73; STATE 147937
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVP LUXEMBOURG NOMINEE: ROBERT GOEBBELS
TAGS: OEXC, LU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005